

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 /083 W

----- 115245

R 151554Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USEC BRUSSELS 1798

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJ: SECOND PHASE OF SYNDICAL (SSO) ELECTIONS

REF: A. MADRID 4280; B. MADRID 4842

SUMMARY: SSO APPEARS TO BE MANIPULATING SECOND PHASE OF SYNDICAL ELECTIONS SO THAT SSO ESTABLISHMENT SUPPORTERS WILL BE ELECTED. MEANWHILE BARCELONA SYNDICAL DELEGATE, MOST LIBERAL SSO LEADER, WAS RECENTLY SACKED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SECOND SPHASE OF NATIONWIDE SYNDICATE ELECTIONS OF GOVT-
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CONTROLLED SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO) COMMENCED

OCT 1 AND IS STILL IN PROGRESS. THESE INDIRECT ELECTIONS ARE FOR LOCAL LEVEL SSO OFFICIALS, WHO ARE ELECTED BY THE 350,000 SHOP STEWARDS ELECTED IN FIRST (PLANT LEVEL) PHASE OF SYNDICAL ELECTIONS HELD IN JUNE (REFTELS). THE SECOND PHASE IS SCHEDULED TO LAST ANOTHER WEEK AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY INDIRECT ELECTIONS FOR PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL SSO LEADERSHIP IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

2. THE LOCAL LEVEL SSO ELECTIONS FAILED TO AROUSE SAME INTEREST AS SSO JUNE PLANT LEVEL ELECTIONS, BECAUSE RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS HAVE ECLIPSED SSO ELECTORAL PROCESS AND BECAUSE THESE SECOND PHASE ELECTIONS -- AS WIDELY PREDICTED -- ARE REPORTEDLY BEING MANIPULATED BY THE SSO TO INSURE THE ELECTION OF A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GOVT AND SSO SUPPORTERS. CONSEQUENTLY THE NEWCOMERS (75 PERCENT OF THOSE RECENTLY ELECTED SHOP STEWARDS) ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO GET ELECTED TO LOCAL LEVEL SSO POSITIONS. MANY OF THE NEW SHOP STEWARDS, AS REPORTEDLY EARLIER, ARE MEMBERS OF CLANDESTINE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS OR OPPOSITION GROUPS, INCLUDING THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) AND THE PCE-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS.

3. AMONG THE RIGGING DEVICES REPORTEDLY EMPLOYED WERE:
(A) NEW SSO RULE ALLOWING LAME DUCK SHOP STEWARDS VOTED OUT OF OFFICE IN JUNE AS WELL AS NEWLY ELECTED SHOP STEWARDS TO BOTH VOTE AND RUN FOR ELECTIONS IN SECOND PHASE (A CONVENIENT WAY OF HAVING SSO BUREAUCRATS DILUTE VOTE OF SOME OF RADICAL NEWCOMERS); (B) THE GERRYMANDERING OF ELECTED SSO SHOP STEWARDS INTO ELECTORAL GROUPINGS WHICH TEND TO GIVE DISPROPORTIONATELY HEAVY REPRESENTATION TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES AT EXPENSE OF BLUE COLLAR WORKERS; AND (C) PERHAPS COERCION OR OUTRIGHT FRAUD. (LABATT WAS TOLD THAT IN MADRID METAL-WORKERS ELECTION, SSO-SPONSORED CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED BY A NUMBER OF BALLOTS SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEEDING NUMBER OF SHOP STEWARD ELECTORS PRESENT AND ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.)

4. ANOTHER IMPORTANT RECENT SSO DEVELOPMENT WAS THE LATE SEPTEMBER SUDDEN OUSTER OF SSO PROVINCIAL DELEGATE IN BARCELONA, JOSE MARIAS SOCAS HUMBERT. SOCAS' SACKING WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT INASMUCH AS SOCAS WAS PERHAPS THE LEADING YOUNG LIBERALIZER IN THE SSO. SOCAS, A ONE-TIME IVP LEADER GRANTEE, HAD CONDUCTED JUNE PLANT LEVEL ELECTIONS IN BARCELONA AREA WITH IMPARTIALITY UNDER THE SLOGAN OF A "NEW SYNDICAL FRONTIER", RESULTING IN THE ELECTION OF SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION PERSONNEL. THESE CAME FROM THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS, FROM DEMOCRATIC GROUPS SUCH AS USO, AND FROM LEFTIST EXTREMIST GROUPS, BRINGING ON

A CONSERVATIVE REACTION THAT RESULTED IN SOCIAS' SACKING.

5. THESE DEVELOPMENTS REINFORCE THE DIVISIONS BETWEEN THE
REGIME-ORIENTED SSO LEADERSHIP AND THE BASE OF FACTORY WORKERS.
WHOSE ELECTED SHOP STEWARDS INCLUDE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF
OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, BOTH DEMOCRATIC AND COMMUNIST.
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